

*******PRESS RELEASE*******

For Immediate Release - Thursday, June 08, 2017

Historic Staunton River Foundation, Inc.
Randolph, Virginia 23962
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RANDOLPH, VA –

Historic Staunton River Foundation Set to Commemorate the
153rd Anniversary of the
Battle of Staunton River Bridge

Please join the Historic Staunton River Foundation and the Staunton River Battlefield State Park as they work to Commemorate the 153rd Anniversary of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge in Halifax and Charlotte Counties. An array of events and programs have been planned for the weekend (Friday & Saturday) for the entire family! All events are free and open to the public. Friday evening/night's activities will begin at Fort Hill (earthworks) at the Staunton River Battlefield State Park located at 1035 Fort Hill Trail, Randolph, Virginia (Halifax County Clover Visitor Center entrance).

Friday, June 23

7:00PM: Interpretive Program “Railroads to Oblivion” will be given by Park Manager Jim Zanarini at Fort Hill. The topic will highlight and explain several significant and vital elements of the railroads during the Civil War and why they were the constant object of destruction and defense. It will also relate the important Battle of Staunton River Bridge and the Richmond & Danville Railway that connected the two important cities of the Confederacy in 1864. Following the program attendees and guests will enjoy a wagon ride tour of the Battlefield.

9:00 – 9:30am: Wagon Ride Tour of the Battlefield will provide an opportunity to see several unique and rarely seen views of the Battlefield, Archaeological dig, Staunton River and the Bridge. The ride will last approximately 45 minutes to an hour. It is advised that comfortable clothes and shoes be worn, that bug spray and a flashlight are also readily available.

Saturday, June 24

9:00 – 9:45am: Military Service Award Ceremony at Fort Hill near the UDC monument, presented by the Halifax Chapter of the **United Daughters of the Confederacy**. These service awards are presented to veterans who are lineal descendants of Confederate Veterans. If you are a descendant of a Confederate Veteran and served your country in the United States Armed Forces, please contact the Foundation.

9:45 – 10:00am: The **Historic Staunton River Foundation** will present commemorative medals to recognized descendants of the participants of the Battle of Staunton River Bridge. A **wreath-laying ceremony** will be presented by local heritage organizations. If you are a descendant of a Confederate soldier or a descendant of the known and infamous “Ole Men & Young Boys” who fought to defend the Staunton River Bridge, please contact the Foundation at info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org or phone 434-454-7157.

10:00am: Guided Battlefield Walking Tour and narration will begin on the Bridge following the wreath-laying ceremony and will last approximately 45 minutes and the tour will cover important and historical facts relating to the Battle for the Staunton River Bridge.

11:00 – Noon: Mr. Gary Lee Hall, will present a program entitled, “**Irish in the Confederacy**.” During the War, numerous Irish supported the Confederacy and according to Mr. Hall, history has all but forgotten these men. The Union had an Irish Brigade, which has been well documented and discussed through the years; however, there were “rebels” from Ireland who also became supporters and defenders of the Confederacy. His presentation will provide an insightful discussion on the settlement of Irish in the South during the Antebellum period; how and why the Irish served in the militaries; the similarities between the rebellion in Ireland and the War Between the States; and close with personal stories of the men who fought. Mr. Hall received his degree in history from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech) and is Past Commander of the 47th Regiment North Carolina Troops Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans in Wake Forest, North Carolina and currently serves as the Lt. Commander of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars in Raleigh, North Carolina. The lecture is free and open to the public and will take place in the Roanoke Depot Visitors Center in downtown, Randolph.

Throughout the day: Living History Encampment presented by Confederate re-enactors from the **14th Virginia Infantry, Co. K** and **Oliver’s Battery, 21st Virginia, Co. C** will be located next to Fort Hill (earthworks). Prisoner demonstrations, camp life, weapon demonstrations, interpretive demonstrations, and Confederate recruitment will be shown for public participation.

This is a “tentative schedule” and every effort has been made to maintain and keep it accurate. If you or someone you know is a descendant, please inform a representative from the contacts below. Let us know if you are interested in helping plan or volunteer for this or one of the Foundation and Park’s many other events held throughout the year. For more information of the Battle Commemoration and upcoming events, please visit the Foundation’s website at www.historicstauntonriverfoundation.org, visit our Facebook Page (Historic Staunton River Foundation), email info@historicstauntonriverfoundation.org, or call the Staunton River Battlefield State Park at 434-454-4312.

The Staunton River Battlefield State Park straddles Charlotte and Halifax Counties. The physical address of the Clover Visitors Center (Halifax entrance) is 1035 Fort Hill Trail, Randolph, Virginia 23962. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation manages the award-winning Virginia State Park System. For more information about Virginia State Park activities, please call 800-933-PARK or visit www.virginiastateparks.gov.